



CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

Serving the 5th Congressional District of Georgia

THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2019

On February 14, 2019, Rep. Lewis, Leader Hoyer, Whip Clyburn, and Chairman Nadler reintroduced H.R. 1275, the Voter Empowerment Act (VEA).

VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT (VEA) SUMMARY

First introduced in 2012 by Representatives John Lewis, James Clyburn, Steny Hoyer, John Conyers, and Robert Brady, the **Voter Empowerment Act (VEA)** is the product of consultation with dozens of Members of Congress, House Caucuses, and civil rights advocacy groups.

Included in *Division A* of H.R. 1, the House Democrats' *For the People Act*, this comprehensive voting rights and election administration legislation would —

- Authorize Online & Modernized Voter Registration
- Provide 15 Days of Early Voting
- Mandate No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- Prohibit Voter Caging and Deceptive Practices
- Establish Same-Day Registration
- Restoration of Voting Rights for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals (Returning Citizens)
- Authorize a National Voter Protection Hotline
- Provide Assistance to States to Secure Voting Lists and Processes
- Designate Colleges and Universities as Voter Registration Agencies
- Improve Access to Voting for Individuals with Disabilities
- Strengthen Poll Worker Training and Polling Place Standards
- Give States Guidance on Verified Ballots/Mandatory Paper Trail & Voting Machine Standards
- Protect and preserve the rights of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens' Absentee Voting
- Require Election Administrators Who Are on the Ballot to Recuse Themselves

VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT (VEA) PURPOSE

H.R. 1275 responds to the 2016 and 2018 election -- where foreign interference, hacking, and the shameful efforts to suppress the vote were direct attacks on our democracy that Members of Congress cannot allow to go unanswered. The VEA would increase access to the ballot box, enhance integrity, and ensure accountability in U.S. elections.

Congress has an obligation to reaffirm our commitment to the principle that every American citizen should have an equal right to vote without the discriminatory requirement of a poll tax or unnecessary barriers to the ballot box. The Voter Empowerment Act fulfills this mandate.